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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/047,207 | 01/15/2002 | Hong Wan | P01,0367 | 5757 |

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EXAMINER

EASTHOM, KARL D

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 2832 | 5 |

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/047,207 | Applicant(s) Wan |
| | Examiner Karl Easthom | Art Unit 2832 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 13, 2002

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 18-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-17 and 31 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 1 and 2

6) Other: _____

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1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-17 (and 31 by inference) in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that claims 1 and 26 cannot effectively be examined separately. This is not found persuasive because it is more effective to examine different inventions separately because more time is allotted therefor, there being no argument that the inventions are not separate and distinct.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear what the set/reset direction is since it is not introduced or defined in the claim.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2, 11, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rahman. Rahman discloses the claimed invention at Fig. 3 where the isolator input strap 53 produces fields in magnetoresistors 37 and 38 opposite to that of magnetoresistors 39, 40.

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5. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 11-14, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lienhard et al. Lienhard et al. discloses the claimed invention at Figs. 2-3 where the input strap 9,10 has several turns depicted at Fig. 1 coupled between the first and second input terminals, "so that a magnetic field is generated over two of the magnetoresistors 1, 4 in one direction, ...and generated over magnetoresistors 2,3 in another direction. That is, the input strap is considered to comprise portions 9, 10 since 10 is coupled to the input portion in a feed back circuit and 9 produces a field opposite to that of 10. As a further alternative, the claim is met at Fig. 4 where the strap 300 is isolated from the magnetoresistors and is thus an input strap, since it has an isolated input. In claim 3, there are multiple turns as noted in either the coil 9 or 30. The two layers of claim 6 is as depicted. The claim 7 the dielectric layer is disclosed at col. 3, lines 5-35 as insulating layers.

6. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wan. Wan discloses the claimed invention at Fig. 1 where the input strap is 54, and the magnetoresistors are 24-30. That is, while the input strap 54 is described as a reset strap, it still meets the claim since it can function as an input strap as it is isolated, and also produces fields in 28, 30 opposite from that of 24, 26. The elongated portions of claims 4-5 are at the top and bottom of Fig. 2. In claims 9-10, and 16-17, the reset coil is the coil 72, 74 having the portions claimed.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lienhard et al. in view of Black, Jr. et al. '426. The claimed invention is disclosed except the insulating layer over the input strap. As noted above, Lienhard discloses a number of insulating layers to insulate the various layers. Black also discloses such layers, including a layer to insulate the whole device as an optional protective layer at col. 3, lines 35-50. It would have been obvious to provide such an optional layer to protect the device where both reference recognize that all conductive layers must be protected from each other by insulating layers so that to leave one exposed would defeat all purposes of protecting anyone.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl Easthom whose telephone number is (703)308-3306. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad, can be reached on (703)308-7619. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)308-7722. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



KARL D. EASTHOM
PRIMARY EXAMINER